ASCS TODAY

By Tom Conrad

Deficiency Payments Scheduled For Corn, Sorghum Procedures - Appomattox farmers who participated in the voluntary feed grain set-aside program last year will receive deficiency payments on their 1978 crops of corn and sorghum.

The checks will be issued in early April to about 120 farmers in Appomattox County.

Deficiency payments are made when the average price received by farmers during the first five months of the marketing year for a program crop falls below the government- established target price for that crop. The per bushel payment rate is the difference between the target price and the higher of the loan rate for the crop or the average price received by farmers. The 1978 target prices were $2.10 per bushel for corn, and $2.28 per bushel for sorghum. The national average loan rates were $2.00 for corn, and $1.90 for sorghum.

The payment rate could range between four and six cents per bushel for corn, and 33 to 35 cents for sorghum.

Payments for the crops are computed by multiplying the established yield for the farm by the acreage planted for harvest times the payment rate. The payments may be adjusted downward by an allocation factor which is applied to payments on farms where producers did not reduce their 1978 corn and sorghum acreage by 5 percent from the 1977 acreage. This factor could range between 85 and 90 percent for corn and 87 to 93 percent for sorghum.

Storage Structure & Drying Equipment Loans - This loan program is administered by ASCS to those farmers who wish to purchase storage and/or drying equipment for their farms to store grains or silage. This loan is disbursed on 85 percent of the total out-of-pocket cost to the farmer and carries a true 10.5 percent interest rate on the unpaid principal, and the loan is repayable for up to an eight year period.

There have been many farmers in the county to express interest in this program. If you are considering purchasing equipment and are not familiar with the program you are urged to stop by the ASCS office at your earliest convenience.

Flue-Cured Tobacco Changes - Major changes have been made in the flue-cured tobacco marketing quota program to discourage farmers from over producing.

Beginning with the 1979 crops, storage of producer carryover tobacco through marketing agents will not be allowed farmers who agree not to harvest the four lower leaves will be permitted to plant 110 percent of their effective flue-cured allotments and still receive price support.

Producers will be required to report tobacco on hand at the end of the marketing season, and dealers and buyers will have to submit supplemental reports of tobacco acquired by them but not included in their annual season reports.

Under the latest changes, May 1 would be the final date that flue-cured growers will file requests for lease and transfer of farm marketing quotas except when late filling was beyond the producers control.

Warehouse Designation - The initial flue-cured tobacco warehouse designation period ends on April 6. In checking our records we find that there are still a good many producers who have not yet designated. If you are one who has not yet designated, I urge you to do just as soon as possible.

Measurement Service - Farmers should consider having their crops pre-measured for the 1979 crop year. All tobacco farms will be measured during the summer to determine price support eligibility. The cost is nominal compared to the saving in labor, materials and assurance of price support. For participating farms in the Set-aside program, measurement service guarantees full benefits.

Wheat and Feed Grain Set-Aside Program - If your farm has a Normal Crop Acreage established stop by the ASCS office and let us explain, this program to you before April 30. During the signup period, producers will only be filing an intention to participate. Intentions must be filed during the signup in order to obtain program benefits later.

There will be a 20 percent set-aside of the acreage planted to wheat and barley for harvest as grain. There will be a 10 percent set-aside of the acreage planted to corn and grain sorghum. An additional 10 percent set-aside on corn and grain sorghum may be offered for payment. Producers who agree to take a percentage of their wheat for grain out or production and graze or hay it, are also eligible for an additional payment. This will apply if deficiency payments are made on wheat. Producers that participate in the program will assure themselves of deficiency payments, price support and disaster protection.

Rod House Ruritans To Sponsor Springtime Matrimonial Ceremony

The bride, tall and slender, radiant in bridal finery, a vision of girlish hopes and dreams. A groom, eager and waiting at the altar for his beloved. A familiar scene that is enacted thousand of times each spring. But take a closer look. Could that be razor stubble on that young bride?It could be as the "bride" is John T. Hunter and that so-anxious groom is Foster Reynolds, both members of the Red House Ruritan Club.

The Red House Ruritan Club is sponsoring a "womanless" wedding to be held Friday, April 6 at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the J. Murray Jefferies Elementary School located in Phenix. Tickets are $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for children.

The cast members will include Tom Lambeth as mistress of ceremonies. Butch May as maid of honor and Mike Reeves as matron of honor. The lovely bridesmaids will include Jack Chambers, Lester Fannon and Leonard Oliver. The best man is James Bennett, ring-bearer is Kenneth Marston and flower girl, Hilton Moore.

The shot gun toting father of the bride is Tom Conrad and the mother of the bride will be portrayed by Bennie Marston. Mother of the groom is Melvin Reeves. Brides grandmother is Meade Wade and groom's grandmother is Lewis Elder.

What comedy is complete without a jilted lover as played by Kenny Wayne Reynolds and a nosy neighbor as acted by Rodney Marston. Proper family devotion and concern will be shown by Page Petty as aunt of the bride and Bobby Clowdis as aunt of the groom.

Ushers are Jimmy Reynolds and Doc Morris. The wedding will be officiated by John Mills Barksdale as minister, Debbie Reeves as pianist and Anthony Reeves will provide vocal entertainment.

Please come early and join in the fun. You're promised a night of good family entertainment and lots of laughs.

The Analytical Engine, conceived by Charles Babbage about 1822, was the first computer designed to receive instructions from punched cards, make calculations with the aid of a memory bank and print out solutions to problems. It was never completed.

ROCKS

April 1 was April Fools Day. Did you get fooled? Thanks for the nice shower Sunday afternoon.

The Ladies Bible Sunday School Class had their class meeting on Thursday afternoon with Louise Roach. They had a good turn out.

Mrs. Irma Roach is spending a few days in Richmond with her daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Toby Inge returned home on Wednesday afternoon after a trip to see their son Phillip and the Atkins in South Carolina. Mr. Melvin Atkins continues ill in a hospital. Get well wishes goes out to him.

Easter services will be held at Rocks on April 12 at 7 p.m. on April 15 Sun Rise Service at Old Rocks if weather permits. Time named later. No evening services.

The Executive Association meeting at Union Hill Church this Monday night.

On April 19th a group from our church will travel to Vermont to visit with the people of Peacham Baptist Fellowship and will be returning on April 22.

Revival services at Rocks will begin on April 25 and go through April 29th. Rev. Rodney Hale will be the guest speaker each night.

We welcome in our church family Connie and Dave Sandman. They came by letter from Wareham Baptist Church. We welcome them into our church.

Mrs. Helen Inge and Rita Inge from Rocks attended the conference at Eagle Eyrie Friday returning Saturday afternoon.

On Saturday, March 31 the following FBLA members took part at the Spring Regionals held at Longwood College. They were Debbie Harris, Debbie Roach and Cindy Roach. These belong to the Appomattox Chapter. Hope their high school won.

Happy to say Sarah Browning is much better at this time. She can laugh now. Continue to pray for her.

Zion Baptist

A large crowd of members and friends attended the regular preaching service held at the Zion Baptist Church Sunday at 11 a.m. with Rev. Charles Lewis of Madison Heights, Virginia. All present enjoyed the message. Rev. Lewis spoke on Matthew 15 chapter. Where did we get all these things. All present enjoyed this challenging message. The male choir rendered beautiful music. The senior choir sang beautiful song under Mr. Howard Allen at the pianist. The offering was very good. Rev. Lewis served the holy communion at the close of the service. The Ladies Aid will meet Sunday at the Zion Baptist Church Sunday at 1 p.m. with Mrs. Beatrice Walker as hostess.

You are cordially invited to attend the Seniors Choir Festival Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Zion Baptist Church.

On the sick list is Mrs. Annie Mae Durphy, Mrs. Magonlia Franklin, Mrs. Mary C. Brown. The Rev. Bobby Jones will be the guest speaker at the Zion Baptist Church the third Sunday in April at 11 a.m.

Music Students Receive Composer Certificates

Eleven students from the music classes of Virginia Cerisetta received awards for their compositions. The students' original compositions were evaluated by the American College of Musicians with each student receiving a personal note from the judge, a report card, certificate of award and composer's pin. The pieces were judged according to rhythm, form, counterpoint, phrasing, originality etc. These students will perform their compositions as part of their public recital to be held on June 2.

Listed below are these students: Robin LeGrand, Lisa Williamson, Jennifer Schmuts, Mike McCoy, Brett Marston, Beth Marston, Anne Kerr, Anne Hancock, Kathy Beasley, Lisa Bentley, and Kathy White.

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Capitol Comments

By DAN DANIEL, Fifth District, Virginia

APRIL 4 - Some months back, many of you responded to a survey put out by Forum on Regulation. Designated a "Citizen's Audit", its purpose was intended to find out just how people felt about the government's various regulatory programs.

And we did find out! The experts tell us that a five to seven percent response to an unsolicited questionnaire is a valid sampling. More than 15 percent of the people in the Fifth District returned the questionnaire, and the unofficial estimate of the organization which designed and distributed the questionnaire is that the response has been similar in other mailings.

You will not be surprised that a large number of Americans conclude that government regulation is excessive, inefficient, and costs more than it is worth.

Now, it should be emphasized that this was a straw poll. Respondents were not scientifically selected. And it almost goes without saying that those who returned the questionnaires held strong opinions; there were relatively few "don't know", or "no difference" responses.

Some government regulations are felt appropriate - although none received a 50 percent - or - better margin. But in ten of seven categories, the negative response was overwhelming. Schools and Education? 77.1 percent responded "worse off". Hiring and Employment? 73.1 percent. How Businesses are Run and Operated? 82.2 percent. A plurality of 41.4 percent of the responses considered Water and Air Pollution improved, and in Advertising, Packaging and labelling, 38 percent.

A surprising 94.4 percent felt that products cost more today than they did 20 years ago because of government regulations. And 88 percent believed that businesses are losing money or failing due to regulations. Opinions expressed were somewhat puzzling when it came to product safety. 42.5 percent felt they were more safe; 6.3 percent not as safe; 36.5 percent felt there was no effect; and 12.6 percent had no opinion on the subject. One might have expected stronger feelings on this subject than are reflected in the poll.

The celebrated bottom line for this survey was the final question: "Which do you think should be more important when deciding whether the costs of a regulation are worth it?" Almost half 49.7 percent believed primary consideration should be given to the effect on prices, wages and employment. Slightly more than a quarter, 28.3 percent, considered the effect on environment, safety and health more important.

The survey solicited comments from respondents as to how the regulatory process might be improved. Four major recommendaitons received the highest endorsement:

1. That Congress and the regulatory agencies fully evaluate the economic impact of proposed regulations and alternative approches before any regulation takes effect.

2. That all federal regulations be reviewed periodically to insure that they are written in clear, precise language, and they are still justified in light of economic or technical changes.

3. That, wherever possible, selection of alternatives will be based on the least burdensome, least costly, and most effective approach to meet objectives.

4. That Congress and the agencies permit greater flexibility in meeting government-set regulatory goals.

The first goal can be accomplished with economic impact statements, which are presently required in some, but not all, bills. The second, by passage of Sunset Legislation, which I have sponsored. The third and fourth goals will require a change in philosophy by those who make the laws and those who enforce them. Certainly the desire is there on the part of those who must live with the regulations.

Va. Fibre Reports Weekly Wood Purchases

Listed below is the total dollar volume of wood purchased by Virginia Fibre Corporation of Riverville for the week ending March 25. Purchases are listed by counties.

Albermarle	13,091.92
Amelia	1,336.87
Amherst	7,510.80
Appomattox	6,810.95
Bedford County	1,402.06
Buckingham	25,630.64
Campbell	8,463.22
Charlotte	6,212.24
Cumberland	11,394.32
	1,873.20
Fluvanna	1,297.35
Franklin County	585.24
Goochland	350.84
Halifax	1,536.26
Madison	934.71
Nelson	7,132.13
Pittsylvania	1,281.72
Powhatan	3,202.70
Prince Edward	11,272.53
Prince William	582.24
Rockbridge	1,600.36
Total	**113,502.30**

We feel this information is of real interest to citizens in Appomattox County and in adjoining counties.

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Four Elected To Order of the Arrow

Four Scouts from Troops 546 were recently elected to the Order of the Arrow. Those elected were Star Scout Mike Carmody, Life Scout James Vaughan, Star Scout Lyra Martin, and Star Scout Luis Garcia. The Order of the Arrow is an organization of honor campers who have attained at least the First Class Progress Award. The Scouts will be inducted into the Order upon completion of their Ordeal on April 28.

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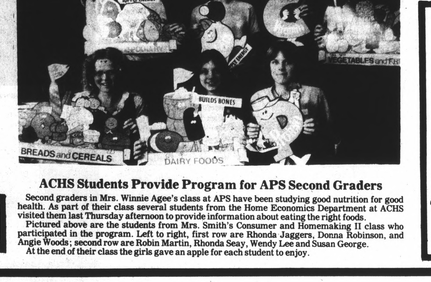

ACHS Students Provide Program for APS Second Graders

Second graders in Mrs. Winnie Agee's class at APS have been studying good nutrition for good health. As part of their class several students from the Home Economics Department at ACHS visited them last Thursday afternoon to provide information about eating the right foods.

Pictured above are the students from Mrs. Smith's Consumer and Homemaking II class who participated in the program. Left to right, first row are Rhonda Jaggers, Donna Robinson, and Angie Woods; second row are Robin Martin, Rhonda Seay, Wendy Lee and Susan George.

At the end of their class the girls gave an apple for each student to enjoy.

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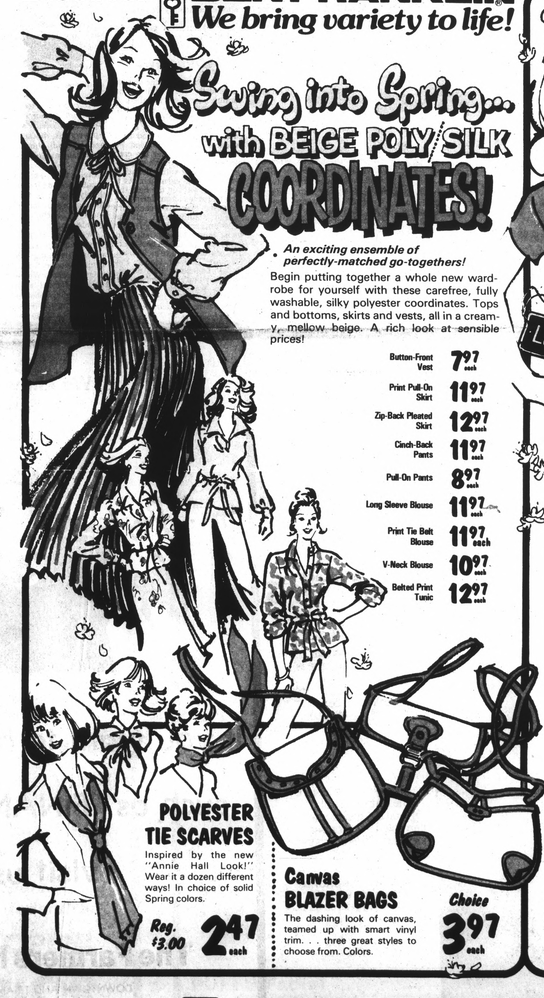

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